

**Senate File 275 - Introduced**

SENATE FILE 275  
BY COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

(SUCCESSOR TO SF 189)

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to termination of parental rights proceedings  
2 based upon safety or security concerns.  
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 600A.5, Code 2017, is amended to read as  
2 follows:

3 **600A.5 Petition for termination — venue — safety or**  
4 **security concerns.**

5 1. The following persons may petition a juvenile court for  
6 termination of parental rights under **this chapter** if the child  
7 of the parent-child relationship is born or expected to be born  
8 within one hundred eighty days of the date of petition filing:

9 a. A parent or prospective parent of the parent-child  
10 relationship.

11 b. A custodian or guardian of the child.

12 2. A petition for termination of parental rights shall be  
13 filed, and venue shall lie, with the juvenile court in the  
14 county in which the guardian or custodian of the child resides  
15 or the child, the biological mother, or the pregnant woman is  
16 domiciled. If a juvenile court has made an order pertaining  
17 to a minor child under **chapter 232, division III**, and that  
18 order is still in force, the termination proceedings shall be  
19 conducted pursuant to the provisions of chapter 232, division  
20 IV.

21 3. A petition for termination of parental rights shall  
22 include the following:

23 a. The legal name, age and domicile, if any, of the child.

24 b. The names, residences, and domicile of any:

25 (1) Living parents of the child.

26 (2) Guardian of the child.

27 (3) Custodian of the child.

28 (4) Guardian ad litem of the child.

29 (5) Petitioner.

30 (6) Person standing in the place of the parents of the  
31 child.

32 c. A plain statement of the facts and grounds in section  
33 600A.8 which indicate that the parent-child relationship should  
34 be terminated.

35 d. A plain statement explaining why the petitioner does not

1 know any of the information required under paragraphs "a" and  
2 "b" of this subsection.

3 e. The signature and verification of the petitioner.

4 4. If the petitioner alleges and affirms in the verified  
5 petition that the petitioner has a legitimate concern for the  
6 safety or security of the child or petitioner, all of the  
7 following shall apply:

8 a. Notwithstanding subsection 2, the petitioner may file  
9 the petition in a county within the same judicial district but  
10 other than those counties specified, and venue shall be in the  
11 county in which the petition is filed.

12 b. The court shall keep confidential the residence and  
13 domicile of the child and the petitioner disclosed in the  
14 petition.

15 EXPLANATION

16 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
17 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

18 This bill relates to a petition for termination of parental  
19 rights. Current law provides that a petition for termination  
20 of parental rights shall be filed with the juvenile court in  
21 the county in which the guardian or custodian of the child  
22 resides or the child, the biological mother, or the pregnant  
23 woman is domiciled. The bill specifies that venue shall also  
24 lie in such locations.

25 The bill also provides that if a petitioner alleges and  
26 affirms in the verified petition that the petitioner has a  
27 legitimate concern for the safety or security of the child or  
28 the petitioner, the following apply: The petitioner may file  
29 the petition in a county in the same judicial district but  
30 other than those counties specified, and venue shall be in the  
31 county where the petition is filed; and the court shall keep  
32 confidential the residence and domicile of the child and the  
33 petitioner disclosed in the petition.